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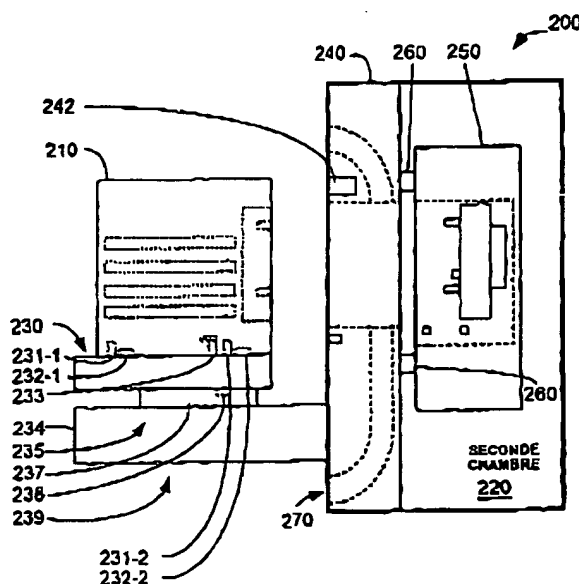
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(54) Title: LOADPORT APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR USE THEREOF



(57) Abstract: A loadport apparatus for conditioning the interior of a FOUNDRY OPENING UNIT (FOUP) having a FOUP door. The apparatus includes platform, a housing, an loadport door, a loadport door seal and a conditioning system. The FOUP platform receives the FOUP. The housing includes an opening to a second chamber. The housing is configured for sealably engaging the FOUP. The loadport door includes a FOUP door access mechanism for opening the FOUP. The loadport door is movable between an open position and a closed position. The loadport door seal selectively seals the opening from the second chamber when the loadport door is in the closed position. The conditioning system communicates with the opening for conditioning a mini-environment chamber defined by the loadport door, the seal, the opening, and an interior of the FOUP when the loadport door is in the closed position, the loadport door seal is sealed, and the FOUP door is open. A method is also disclosed.

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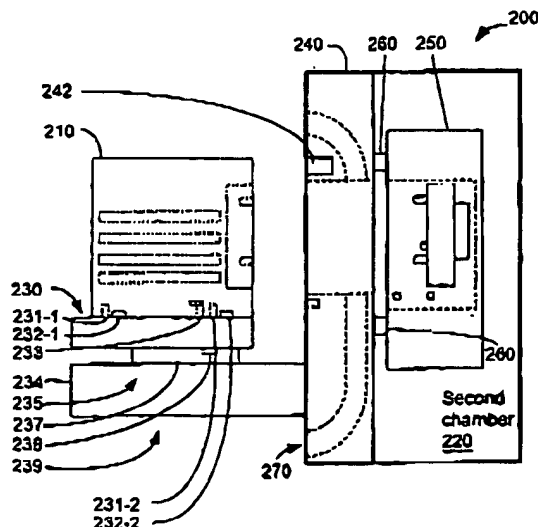
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(57) Abstract: A loadport apparatus for conditioning the interior of a FOUNDRY having a FOUNDRY door. The apparatus includes platform, a housing, an loadport door, a loadport door seal and a conditioning system. The FOUNDRY platform receives the FOUNDRY. The housing includes an opening to a second chamber. The housing is configured for sealably engaging the FOUNDRY. The loadport door includes a FOUNDRY door access mechanism for opening the FOUNDRY. The loadport door is movable between an open position and a closed position. The loadport door seal selectively seals the opening from the second chamber when the loadport door is in the closed position. The conditioning system communicates with the opening for conditioning a mini-environment chamber defined by the loadport door, the seal, the opening, and an interior of the FOUNDRY when the loadport door is in the closed position, the loadport door seal is sealed, and the FOUNDRY door is open. A method is also disclosed.

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